

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-18 and 49-76 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 77-118 are added.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 77-118 are now pending in this application, of which Claims 77 and 102 are independent.

Election

Applicants hereby withdraw their previous election of September 8, 2004 and provisionally elects Group III, Claims 31-42 and 48, for examination, with traverse.

Since Claims 31-42 and 48 were previously cancelled, they are rewritten in this response as new Claims 77-88 (for 31-42) and Claim 102 (for Claim 48).

Claims 78-88 have a preamble which recites "high temperature food processing apparatus belt" but are otherwise similar to Claims 32-42.

New Claims

Claims 89-101 and 103-118 have been added to the application for the first time. Each of the added claims is believed to be supported by the specification as filed and is not believed to add new matter.

Further, each added claim is believed to properly belong to Group III (the group elected) since each of these claims depends from one of independent Claims 77 and 102, which independent claims belong to Group III.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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